



February 9th, 2020

RE: Yes on SB 493 -1 – Support Oregon’s Construction Industry

Members of the Senate Labor & Business Committee:

The Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association of Oregon (PMCA) and the Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors National Association of Oregon & SW Washington (SMACNA) strongly urge your support of Senate Bill 493 -1.

We represent hundreds of construction contractors, maintenance, and manufacturing contractors across Oregon and SW Washington who employ thousands of skilled trades people working on both privately and publicly funded projects. In partnership with our Union partners, we have worked over the years to develop a workforce that results in high-quality, safe, and cost-effective construction and service work.

Senate Bill 493 -1 will help alleviate stagnant wages around the state and remove a redundant and unnecessary administrative burden on our industry. As we already go through extensive negotiation processes with our labor partners to develop industry wage, benefit and training rates, there is no reason not to use the results of this process to set the prevailing wage in lieu of the current survey conducted by the Oregon Employment Department and BOLI.

The time spent on the survey can often prove for naught as the ‘peak week’ structure can leave glaring holes in reporting. Additionally, underreporting can add to inaccurate representations of wages in communities throughout Oregon. Both of these issues can lead to stagnant wages in certain areas, which can have a direct impact on workers livelihoods as well as local economies.

Furthermore, stagnant/low wage and benefit determinations have a significant impact on our members ability to effectively bid work in some areas. This is punitive to contractors who pay appropriate wages and benefits to their employees.

In short, SB 493 -1 will fix the glaring issues in current prevailing wage rate determinations, remove an ineffective and expensive administrative hassle for businesses, support our workforce on public projects, and bolster our businesses across the state.

We hope you will join our contractors in supporting Senate Bill 493 -1.

Sincerely,

Contact:
Chris Carpenter
chris@focuspointcom.com

Jerry Henderson, Executive
Director
SMACNA, OR and SW WA

Lauri Rollings
Executive Director
PMCA